

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a three month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from July 21, 2005, to and including October 21, 2005.

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 8, 10-14 and 19-20. As will be discussed in further detail below, the above-mentioned claims have been amended to overcome §112 issues noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). In view of the above-noted amendment of the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that the drawing objection has been rendered moot.

The Examiner objected to claim 13 as having a minor informality. In response, claim 13, line 5, has been amended to change "are" to --is--.

The Examiner rejected claims 8-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, Applicants respectfully assert that FIGS. 7 and 8 of the application teach a domed arch strip spring. Specifically, the center portion of the spring (around the central opening 232) has a dome shape. In the interest of advancing prosecution, however, Applicants have amended the claims to change each occurrence of "at least one domed arch strip spring" to --at least one arched strip spring--. In view of the above-noted amendment of the claims, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 8-21 now satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

The Examiner also rejected claims 10, 11 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claim 10 to depend from

claim 9. In view of the above-noted amendment to claim 10, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 10 and 11 now satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In addition, claim 19 has been amended to delete the term "normally" therefrom. Thus, claim 19 is also deemed to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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